

Evans for almost 6 decades before her passing. Together they had 2 children, Mary Diane Fields-Reed and Richard E. Fields, Jr.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in honoring the remarkable life of Judge Richard E. Fields. His service as a judge, attorney, community leader, and parishioner made an enduring impact on his community. His brilliance and decency will be remembered by all who were fortunate to meet him.

HONORING THE LOSS OF KAREN
HOBERT FLYNN

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2023

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sorrow that I rise today to honor the life and career of Karen Hobert Flynn of Middletown, Connecticut. Karen, a trailblazer in strengthening democracy in Connecticut and nationwide, tragically passed away at the age of 60 on March 3, 2023, after complications from her courageous fight against cancer. Karen's trailblazing work to enact and implement meaningful campaign finance reform in Connecticut has and will continue to have a healthy, positive and direct impact on Connecticut's electoral democracy which is a legacy that will live on for ages. Our state is forever in her debt.

Born in 1962 in Chestnut Hill, Pennsylvania to Susan Forrest and Peter Hobert, Karen moved at an early age with her family to Medford, New Jersey where she graduated high school. From there, Karen attended St. Mary's College in Maryland to receive her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and History. Immediately after graduating, in 1985, she started what would transition into a lifelong career at Common Cause as the director of the Campaign Finance Monitoring Project. Over the course of the next decade, Karen also helped organize and direct several other public interest campaigns, which included work for Public Citizen and the Center for Science in Public Interest.

Over time, Karen's passion for good governance itself lead her to embrace the need for robust campaign finance reform. It was that mission that brought her to Connecticut. In 1996, she took on the job of Executive Director of the state chapter of Common Cause. She continued to lead the Connecticut Chapter into the early 2000s and became the organization's state chair in 2001. I first got to know Karen when I joined Connecticut Secretary of State Miles Rapaport's office as Special Counsel on Campaign Finance, and worked with Karen in her quest for reform. As the State Chair of Common Cause, Karen was the go-to expert responding on the front lines

to a political and ethical firestorm, which led to the 2004 resignation and criminal conviction of a former Connecticut governor. With the public revulsion in the wake of that event fresh in the voter's minds, Karen organized the successful push with Connecticut Governor Jodi Rell and Secretary of State Susan Bysiewicz to enact a sweeping Connecticut campaign finance law built around the structure of public financing of elections. The final law created the landmark, nationally renowned Connecticut Citizens Election Program, that today is still the law of the land in Connecticut.

Karen's democratic activism did not end with this milestone. She went on to lead common cause nationally, providing help and assistance to other reform efforts in other states, as well as lobbying Congress for federal campaign finance reform. Though she kept focus on growing the mission of Common Cause, doubling its membership and reach to 30 states, she also maintained a watchful eye on the electoral safeguards her organization effectuated. She repeatedly stepped in to thwart partisan efforts to undermine the Election Program. By 2016, Karen was rightfully named President of Common Cause at a time when national attacks on our democratic norms and institutions began to spin out of control. Needless to say, Karen was a tireless defender of our system of government, a fierce advocate for legislative efforts which have passed this body in previous sessions—the For the People Act—and a tenacious fighter of corruption at all levels of our political system.

Mr. Speaker, the life of Karen Hobert Flynn has greatly improved accountability standards within the State of Connecticut, as well as what Americans expect across the country. In her passing, Karen joins the ranks of many likeminded and fierce advocates who dedicated themselves to creating a stronger Union and community. I offer my sincere condolences to her friends and family, specifically her husband, Robert Flynn and four sons, John, Peter, Daniel and Michael, siblings, as well as everyone at Common Cause. We cannot soon hope to replace the void of her loss, and her principled vision for an inclusive democracy. To that end, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in remembrance of Karen Hobert Flynn and preserve her life and works.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF KYLE
KLEIN

HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2023

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kyle Klein for his distinguished career in service to the House Committee on Homeland Security and the United States Congress.

A graduate of Liberty University, Kyle started his career as an intern for the House Committee on Homeland Security. Through his hard work and determination, he worked his way up the Committee's ranks, from Professional Staff Member to a Subcommittee Staff Director, and finally as the Committee Staff Director.

Kyle is a dedicated public servant and policy expert with deep knowledge of the Department of Homeland Security's functions and policies. Through over a decade of service at the Committee, he has served under five different chairmen or ranking members. His leadership has helped focus our Committee on the top priorities at hand: the crisis at our southern border, the increasing threats to our Nation's cybersecurity, and the critical need to reform and reauthorize the Department of Homeland Security.

Kyle has developed great working relationships with Members and staff across the aisle. Additionally, Kyle was instrumental in this transition as Republicans took the House Majority and the Committee on Homeland Security gained a new Chairman.

Kyle has our deepest gratitude, and I am confident he will continue to distinguish himself in his future endeavors. On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I commend Kyle for his diligent service and wish him well in all his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE SPRING GARDEN
HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING
THE AHSAA CLASS A STATE
TITLE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2023

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Spring Garden High School girls' basketball team for winning the AHSAA Class A state title.

On March 3, 2023, the Lady Panthers played fast, leaving no doubt as to who deserves to be state champion, beating Marion County 62 to 39 to secure their title win. The game was played at BJCC's Legacy Arena in Birmingham, Alabama.

The Lady Panthers finished their championship season 36–1. This was head coach Ricky Austin's 7th state championship and the Lady Panthers' 8th basketball state title in school history.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Coach Austin, the Spring Garden High School Lady Panthers' basketball team, students, faculty and all the fans. Go Panthers.